

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /100 W

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R 170053Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5386

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, PN

SUBJ: PANAMA AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. A MEXICAN JOURNALIST FAMILIAR WITH THE UN CALLED ON TORRIJOS AND OTHER SENIOR PANAMANIAN IN PANAMA CITY LATE IN 1975 AND CONCLUDED THAT PANAMA WOULD AGAIN SEEK AN EXTRA-ORDINARY SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE CANAL ISSUE IN PANAMA. THE SOURCE SAID THAT "THE PANAMANIAN" NOW CONCLUDE THAT THE MARCH 1973 MEETING IN PANAMA HAD, OVER TIME, PRODUCED NET ADVANTAGE TO PANAMA.

2. PANAMA IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE ITS TURN AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1976. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE 1973 SESSION IN PANAMA WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE SC PRESIDENCY OF AQUILINO BOYD, WHO IS STILL PANAMANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN.

3. WE DO NOT OF COURSE ATTACH MUCH WEIGHT TO THE SPECULATIONS OF A JOURNALIST WHO MADE ONLY A BRIEF VISIT TO PANAMA CITY AND IT IS AS YET EARLY IN PANAMA'S CURRENT SC MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT IF THE PANAMANIAN SHOULD DECIDE TO ASK FOR ANOTHER AWAY-FROM-HEADQUARTERS MEETING, THE COUNCIL WOULD ONCE AGAIN ACQUIESCE. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUNCIL MIGHT BE PERSUADED THAT NOVEMBER, THE HEIGHT OF GA ACTIVITY, WOULD BE A SINGULARLY INAPPRO-
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PRIATE MONTH FOR THE COUNCIL TO GO TRAVELLING.

4. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE
ARE ANY STEPS IT MIGHT APPROPRIATELY TAKE THAT MIGHT
DISSUADE THE PANAMANIAN FROM A DECISION TO SEEK A
RETURN ENGAGEMENT OF THE 1973 CURCUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760018-1023
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760146/aaaaboor.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMA AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006